



MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

NUMBER: 14-09
December 2, 2014

Deployment of Airbags and Related Components

On July 13th 2014, Reserve Engine1 (RE1 running as PE733) had an unprovoked deployment of its airbags and related components while the vehicle was in motion and two of our employees were injured. Since that date, the Fleet Section has been working with the Safety Section and representatives of Spartan/Crimson and IMMI (the manufacturer of the crew protection system) to examine the system on RE1 and to check similar units for potential problems. A preliminary report has been received from Spartan/Crimson and IMMI and reviewed by staff. MCFRS is waiting for a final report, which will not be immediately available.

PROBABLE CAUSE:

At this point, it is generally agreed that a liquid was spilled into the area underneath the officer's seat. This is where one of the two sensors is located. The liquid had been there for some time and damaged the sensor. This is the probable cause of the deployment. How did the liquid get there? It is likely that someone placed a drink behind the officer's seat and that it spilled into the space where the seatbelt pre-tensioners operate. This was likely a one-time event and not a widespread failure of the crew protection system.

DOES THIS AFFECT LIKE UNITS?

The areas underneath the officer's seat and the driver's seat, where the other sensor is located, were inspected on 11 other Spartan/Crimson engines to determine whether or not there was any damage from liquids. None was found.

CAN THIS SITUATION BE AVOIDED IN THE FUTURE?

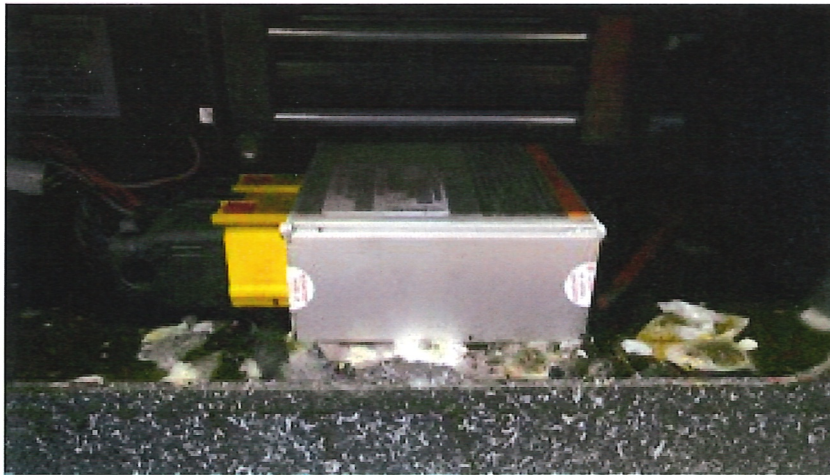
In order to mitigate this type of situation in the future, please ensure that drivers and officers are aware of the following:

- **STATIONS**
 - Be careful where liquids are placed inside the cab.
 - Ensure that when the morning checkout occurs, or at any other time of the day, when the ignition is turned on, the SRS (supplemental restraint system) light activates for 5-10 seconds before going out.
 - If the SRS light does NOT illuminate at ignition OR the SRS light activates during the normal course of operations, please enter a defect report.
These situations, however, are not out-of-service conditions.

- FLEET SECTION

- When an engine is out for a PM, the SRS light will be inspected and the area under the driver's and officer's seats will be inspected for damage to the sensors.

Pictures are attached of a) the contamination found under the officer's seat on RE1 and b) of an activated SRS light.



For more information about the IMMI Rolltek features, see this link:

<http://www.imminet.com/rolltek-fire-faq/>

If you have any questions, please contact Chief Houston (Fleet) or Chief Nelson (Safety)